

## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** November 21, 2019  
**To:** Harbor Commission  
**From:** Karl Treiberg, Acting Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** *Conception* Memorial

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#### RECOMMENDATION:

That Harbor Commission receive a staff report on a proposed memorial commemorating the victims of the dive boat *Conception*.

#### DISCUSSION:

An impromptu memorial was established at Sea Landing immediately after the dive boat *Conception* tragedy on September 2. Friends and family of the 34 victims have placed candles, photos, paintings, and a variety of other items commemorating the lives lost during that tragic incident. The handrail located along the sidewalk to Sea Landing has been the preferred place to display these items. This memorial has served as a respectful tribute to the 34 victims and is visited daily.

The Waterfront Department built a Lost at Sea Memorial at the end of the breakwater in 2005. The site includes two whale's tail benches and large boulders strategically placed around a concrete pad. The centerpiece is a bronze statue of a dolphin and plaque placed on a large boulder. The site is peaceful, provides beautiful views, and is a desirable location for people to reflect and remember loved ones.

Working with the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness, Waterfront staff reached out to the victim's families regarding relocating the impromptu memorial and establishing a permanent plaque at the Lost at Sea Memorial. Several family members visited the site and all who responded were very supportive of the proposal. Staff built a temporary handrail at the Lost at Sea Memorial and relocated the existing items from Sea Landing. Santa Barbara Monumental is a local company specializing in bronze plaques and has been hired to create conceptual designs for a permanent plaque to be located at the Lost at Sea Memorial. One of the existing large boulders is well-suited for placement of a plaque and will serve as a fitting memorial for family and friends of the 34 victims to reflect and remember their loved ones.

Prepared by: Karl Treiberg, Acting Waterfront Director